

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of network authentication comprising:
receiving a common user credential from a user seeking access to an information network;
generating a unique credential [for the user] after receiving the common user credential from the user, the unique credential comprising [that comprises] network specific information associated with a connection of the user; and
considering the unique credential in connection with making an authentication decision for the user.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the common user credential from a different user seeking access to the information network;
generating a different unique credential for the different user that comprises different network specific information; and
considering the different unique credential in connection with making an authentication decision for the different user.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection of the user comprises an xDSL link.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection of the user comprises a link at least partially supported by a cable modem.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing a network node to generate the unique credential.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network specific information comprises a unique circuit identification number associated with an ADSL connection.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network specific information comprises a virtual circuit identification associated with ADSL routing.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising tracking a metric associated with the user.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the metric is selected from the group consisting of an access control metric, a payment metric, and a security metric.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing a network node to generate the unique credential, wherein the network node comprises an authentication server and an interface operable to receive the common user credential.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that the user does not have access rights to the information network; and
initiating communication of a deny response.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network specific information comprises network generated information that is unique to a connection in use by the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network specific information comprises information that is unique to a physical location of the user.

14. (Previously Presented) An authentication system, comprising:
an interface operable to receive an authentication request from a PPPoE client of a given user;
a customizing engine communicatively coupled to the interface and operable to add a unique identifier for the given user to the authentication request; and
an output device communicatively coupled to the customizing engine and operable to output the unique identifier to an access engine for authentication of the given user.
15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising a network node that comprises the interface, the customizing engine, and the output device.
16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising the access engine, wherein the access engine is communicatively coupled to a repository comprising acceptable credentials, further wherein the access engine is operable to compare the unique identifier against the acceptable credentials as a part of granting access rights to the given user.
17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the authentication request from the PPPoE client comprises an included identifier, further wherein the customizing engine is further operable to remove included identifier prior to an outputting of the authentication request to the access engine.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the authentication request from the PPPoE client comprises an included identifier that does not uniquely identify the given user.
19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising a piece of customer premises equipment comprising a broadband modem, the broadband modem operable to output the authentication request to the interface.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a service provider network node that comprises the interface, the customizing engine, and the output device.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, further comprising:
a communication path operable to form at least a part of an interconnection between the broadband modem and the Public Internet; and

the access engine, wherein the access engine is communicatively coupled to a repository comprising acceptable credentials, further wherein the access engine is operable to compare the unique identifier against the acceptable credentials as a part of granting the given user an access right to the communication path.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the unique identifier comprises a unique circuit identification number associated with an ADSL connection.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the unique identifier comprises network generated information that is unique to a connection in use by the given user.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the unique identifier does not uniquely identify the piece of customer premises equipment or the broadband modem.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable data to receive a request for access to an information network, the request comprising a credential; to replace the credential with a network generated credential that uniquely identifies a connection in use by a user seeking access to the information network; to compare the network generated credential against a stored collection of acceptable credentials; and, to issue a permit response if the network generated credential is acceptable.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the credential comprises a commonly assigned credential that does not uniquely identify a requestor.